

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8. (currently amended) [The] A reconfigurable surface [as described in claim 7, further comprising], comprising:

a flexible surface;

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape,

wherein said flexible surface is supported by the tips of said rods, and said flexible surface is sucked against said tips; and

a chamber for housing said rods and evacuated for creating a suction of said flexible surface against said tips of said rods.

Claim 9. (previously amended) [The] A reconfigurable surface [as described in claim 5, further], comprising:

a flexible surface;

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape,

wherein said flexible surface is supported by the tips of said rods and each rod of said rods is movable in a vertical direction against said flexible surface and is locked in position when elevated to a predetermined position, and

wherein each rod of said rods is fitted with two pneumatically controlled locks, which release a particular rod to move freely by coincident addressing; and

an elevator, on which rest the bottom ends of said rods which are unlocked.

Claim 10. (original) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim 9, wherein said elevator is reset at the topmost position with all the locks released.

Claim 11. (original) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim 10, wherein the rods, which are coincidentally addressed, are loacked as the elevator descends.

Claim 12. (original) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim 8, further comprising inflatable tubes to serve as brakes to lock the rods in position when inflated.

Claim 13. (original) The recinfigurable surface as described in claim 12, wherein said tubes are aligned in two dimensions for coincident addressing.

Claim 14. (original) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim 13, where said tubes are aligned in two orthogonal directions.

Claim 15. (original) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim 13, further comprising a frame having via holes for guiding said rods, and having horizontal grooves for holding said tubes.

Claims 16-20 (canceled).

Claim 21. (previously amended) A reconfigurable surface [as described in claim 20, further comprising], comprising:

a flexible surface;

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape,

wherein reconfigurable surface serves a screen in an image projection system; and

geographical features are optically projected from a projector onto said flexible surface, and computer means to correct the offset of horizontal positioning of said features due to the topology of said flexible surface.